

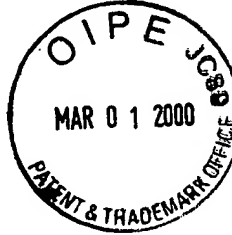
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: OHMI, et al.

Serial Number: 09/023,416

Filed: February 13, 1998

For: FLUID CONTROL APPARATUS



Art Unit: 3753

Examiner: J. Bastianelli

CJP
3/9/00
13/B

CJP
5/2/00

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 3753**

BOX AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 1, 2000

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 1, 1999 finally rejecting claims in the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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TO STENOGRAPHIC ROOM

1. (Twice Amended) A fluid control apparatus comprising a plurality of fluid controllers, and a plurality of on-off devices arranged respectively at an inlet side and an outlet side of each of the fluid controllers, each of the on-off devices comprising one valve or a plurality of valves, with the adjacent valves connected to each other without using tubing,

each of the on-off devices being of the type selected from the group including a 2-type on-off device having a two-port valve, a 2-3-type on-off device having a two-port valve and a three-port

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